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## The Independent, V. 24, Thursday, February 28, 1901, [Whole Number: 1339]

The Independent

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THE  
INDEPENDENT  
Published Every Thursday.  
COLLEGEVILLE, MONTG. CO., PA.  
E. S. MOSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1901.

THANKS to Senator John A. Wentz and Representative I. R. Haldeman for public documents.

THE sinking of the Rio de Janeiro, on the Pacific coast, last week, was a most appalling disaster. One hundred and twenty-eight lives were lost, and most of the bodies of the victims are at the bottom of the sea. The vessel with its valuable cargo will be a total loss.

A REPUBLICAN member of Congress has offered a bill removing the duties on steel which enables the trusts to charge high prices at home while selling cheap abroad. This Congressman should have included the whole Dingley system of trust-protecting tariff taxes; but that he should be willing to go a small part of the big hog, is one of the hopeful signs of the times.

A CORRESPONDENT files a lengthy list of objections in another column to the creation of an Orphans' Court for Montgomery county. Some of the objections have weight and are entitled to due consideration. Those who take a favorable view of the matter under discussion should set forth their arguments in full. By the free exchange of opinions the public mind becomes more and more enlightened with reference to mooted public questions.

THE ballot bill introduced by Senator Foelt, Thursday, is no improvement upon the existing statute regulating the important matter of voting in this State. It is more complex and is manifestly intended to hinder independent political movements. It seems to be, moreover, a studied effort to further mystify election processes. The existing law is by no means what it should be, but the substitute proposed is worse than the original. Perhaps Senator Foelt has simply formulated a parody, with no very serious intentions.

In actual work accomplished the Fifty-sixth Congress has an exceptionally large record. Aside from the Porto Rican and Hawaiian acts already mentioned, this Congress has passed a financial law establishing a permanent gold reserve of about \$150,000,000, fixing the ratio between gold and silver and reorganizing the bonding and the banking systems of the Treasury; reorganizing the United States Army on a basis of 100,000 men; reapportioning the representation in Congress on the basis of the twelfth census; giving "free homes" on the Indian lands; providing for government participation in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1903, as well as many other measures of wide general importance.

It is authoritatively stated that in Anderson county, South Carolina, free negroes have signed contracts by which they escape and imprison them when retaken. One master can sell them to another, and thus families are separated. While these contracts are legally worthless, so long as the victims are not sufficiently informed, the white slaveholders care naught for legality. The Judge of Anderson county shows the right spirit in doing his part toward breaking up this more modern form of slavery; though it is doubtful whether the local authorities will be able to successfully suppress it. It is hoped that the State will be strong enough to do so, however. The great rebellion resulted in the freeing of millions of slaves, but it did not solve the race problem of the South; a problem that will continue to involve considerations of the gravest character for many years to come.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22, 1901.

Nothing but delay on the part of the Cubans in presenting their constitution will prevent an extra session of Congress. So said Senator Platt, of N. Y., just after he had a conference with the President, and such is now the prevailing opinion in Congressional circles. There are many opinions as to whether there will be a delay on the part of the Cubans, but the President believes that the Cuban constitution will be in Washington inside of fifteen days. The call for an extra session will very quickly follow the arrival of the Cuban constitution.

The Revenue Reduction bill is still in conference, neither House nor Senate conferees having given an inch in the fight for their respective bills. If the bill can be got back before the House, it is believed that the Senate amendments would be accepted, as all the democrats and enough republicans to make a majority would vote that way rather than see the bill fail, but it is by no means certain that it can be got out of conference, as there are many who would rather see the bill fail than to see the Senate amendments, which give the lion's share of the reductions to beer and tobacco, become a law.

The River and Harbor bill has been reported to the Senate, and Senators say it will pass. The total amount of appropriations carried by the bill has been cut about \$10,000,000.

About every member of the House who will retire March 4, wants to be one of the U. S. Commissioners provided for in the bill appropriating \$5,000,000 for the St. Louis Exposition, which has passed the House and been favorably reported to the Senate. The places pay \$5,000 a year.

The prospects for a settlement of the Schley-Sampson controversy by Congress at this session are not particularly bright, although the Senate Naval committee reported a bill especially prepared to do so. This bill, which revives the grade of vice-admiral and authorizes the President to appoint two officers

representative Hemenway and myself, who live in the same house here, have discussed the advisability of organizing a committee of five, three young ladies and two young men, to visit my constituent's correspondent and ascertain her qualifications for matrimony."

The oldest residents say that Washington's birthday was never so generally celebrated at the National Capital as this year. Senator Bacon read the farewell address in the Senate, and there was half a dozen big meetings held by various patriotic organizations, including the Sons of the Revolution, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is holding its annual Congress, and the Board of Trade sent good speakers to all the public schools, in which the celebration was held Thursday. Patriotism is a good thing to cultivate; we will need a lot of it before this century closes unless present indications are very deceptive.

The President paid Gen. Shafter, who is now serving as a major general of volunteers, but who has been retired as a brigadier general of regulars, an unusual compliment when he this week nominated him to be a major general in the regular army. It was the wish of the President to make Gen. Shafter a major general before his retirement, but there was no vacancy in the grade at that time. There may be some objection to the nomination, which will result in increasing Gen. Shafter's pay from that of brigadier to major general, as under the law he cannot do duty as an officer of the regular army, having been retired because of the age limit, but it is not expected to be serious enough to prevent the confirmation of his nomination.

By a party vote the Senate committee on Foreign Relations has adversely reported the resolution offered by Senator Morgan, declaring that the ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty is not a condition precedent to legislation by Congress for the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, on the ground that the adoption of the resolution at this time would be discourteous to Great Britain.

In Relation to the Proposed Orphans' Court.

NORRISTOWN, PA., Feb. 23, 1901.

A few years ago when some one suggested a separate Orphans' Court certain newspapers alleged that it was the work of some lawyer who wanted to be appointed judge. Now there is a plea with certain papers that the lawyers do not want it. Well, the truth is that nobody wants another Judge in this county, certainly not for a separate court, with that single jurisdiction. As soon as the separate Orphans' Court would be established and a third Judge appointed to it, the present Judges can no longer act in the Orphans' Court. The Orphans' Court Judge cannot assist our Judges in the other courts, for he has no jurisdiction except in the Orphans' Court. The simplest system of jurisdiction and jurisdiction in the State is that of the Orphans' Court as now administered by the courts. In contested estates, the court refers the contest to an auditor, who takes the testimony of the contestants at his office. Sometimes an heir is missing or a creditor unable to attend. The auditor gives an opportunity to afford all a hearing. If the auditor's findings are excepted to, the judges, both of them hear the exceptions. And all expenses of the estates are paid by the estates, as they should be. The auditors' fees are limited by law, and are always made to be satisfactory to the parties concerned. Very seldom is any exception filed to auditors' fees. The poor man's estate, if it comes into court at all, is always small, and the court disposes of it without expense to the parties. Now an Orphans' Court Judge would have a salary. The Register of Wills becomes his clerk and must have a salary; he is authorized to appoint deputies, and they must be paid—all this comes off the taxpayers and not off the estates as it does now and as it should. The furnishing of a new court room, the expenses of it, its officers on guard, erier and tipstaves, Register and deputies and the Judge, will be an additional burden to the modest owners of real estate which the legislature should not impose upon the people. Why should men in humble circumstances be taxed to audit, adjust, and distribute the estates of millions, or wealthy citizens of any degree? The third court would be a great nuisance. There is not work enough in it to employ a Judge two months in the year. Yet the Judge would have regular times for courts where we would have to appear even if we were interested in only one estate. Now under our old rule which works so well we go to the clerk's office and file our exceptions, or petition, and at the argument before both Judges hear and dispose of the cases in all the courts. But we could not appeal from an Orphans' Court Judge to the other Judges; we would have to go to the Supreme Court at the enormous cost to the parties. If we could demand a hearing before a full bench of all 3 Judges it would not be so abominable and intolerable. There would be much more sense in a separate Orphans' Court as established, thereupon the jurisdiction of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas within such county in Orphans' Court proceedings shall cease and determine. This clause can be amended before the census takers give us 150,000 population, when it would go into effect. The whole Bar, so far as I have heard expression of opinion, and the Judges, and the people especially, are opposed to the creation of a separate Orphans' Court at this time. No party has asked for it; it was not an issue before the people at the election.

A CITIZEN OF THE COUNTY.

For the Independent.

JACK.

"HOSPITALITY IS A RELIGION, AND CHARITY IS ITS FOUNDATION."

He should've his musket and march'd he should, At his country's call, one bright summer day; No heavier 'er carried a gun Than Jack; who march'd with the Boys in Blue of '61.

Kind and forbearing in camp was he, Brave and daring, 'neath the battle storm's canopy. In the thick of the fight, in the charge away, Striking for victory, for freedom to win the day. He'd share his blanket with you, kind heart'd was Jack,

His very last morsel, his last hard-tack, Give you a dip from his old canteen, If the contents were this, or remarkably lean. Hospitality is the soldier's religion, and he is ever ready to a kind turn for his enemy. There is no act of charity greater, I ween, Than to give your enemy drink out of your own canteen.

Friendship's ties, cemented with blood, Are as lasting as the hills, the promises of God, Never to be broken; more than nature they are, 'Tis in flame of fire, in battle, in time of war. For a man, men suffer, perish at the stake, And Jack knew what it was to suffer for country's sake,

The pangs of hunger, of thirst; with hope high On that Isle Infernal, the Isle of the dead. But the end came at last, collapse'd the Con-federacy, And every one thank'd God, for the glorious victory. Though many thousands died, millions were made free, And "Old Glory," was re-baptized, the emblem of Freedom and Liberty.

Jack came home, considerably broken up in health, But with life and limbs, and not a great abundance of wealth, But with wisdom, for following the example of Cincinnati's saint, 'Accept'd the situation, sett'd down at his trade, He was the same Old Jack, in the army we knew,

When he wore the uniform of the Boys in Blue, Paid his dues, but that was all right, 'Twas a guarantee of service, worn in many hard fights. We may miss the bullet, of the sharpshooter's aim, That one stroke, the bayonet thrust; when the dread charge came, Miss'd many invitations, some very close calls, Or bursting shells and minie's balls,

Come out of the battle, unharmed, unscathed, Though baptized with fire, in battle smoke and bay, There's one from whom there's no retreat, Fight ever so gallantly, we must suffer defeat. On his pale horse, that Old Dragon, Rode into camp at early noon, With orders for Jack to come up higher, And relate his experiences, 'round the eternal camp fire.

'Twas a hurried order, no time to pack up, Sorrow was unbounded. Bitter the dregs of that cup. From which the Captains of our valiant band, When death was o'ercome, And we unhesitatingly said, "Thy will, not ours be done."

Then his comrades, and the Sons of Vets, Laid him away with sad, sad regrets, They gather'd 'round that dead soldier's bier, And few were the eyes not moistened with tears. On his casket they placed love's tributes, And on his grave, the flowers of peace, There's one from whom there's no retreat, Fight ever so gallantly, we must suffer defeat.

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Terrible Railroad Wreck.

A horrible railroad disaster occurred near Rushing Station on the Amboy division of the Pennsylvania railroad, Thursday afternoon. Local train No. 330 collided with No. 495, a passenger train from Jersey City to Atlantic City. Two engines and four passenger cars were derailed, and at least ten persons were killed and thirty injured. Walter Earl, engineer of No. 495, had his head cut off. The accident was due to a disobedience of train orders.

THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION AT WASHINGTON.

SPECIAL RATES OF FARE VIA PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILWAY.

To accommodate those desiring to visit Washington on the occasion of the inauguration of the President elect, Wm. McKinley, the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad has arranged to sell Excursion Tickets from all Ticket Stations at the special rate of single fare for the Round Trip. These tickets will be sold and good March 1st, 2d and 3d, and 4th, and return until March 8th, 1901, inclusive, on all regular trains in each direction, except the "Royal Limited." For time of trains, rates of fare and other information consult Ticket Agents or address Edison J. Weeks, Gen'l. Pass'r Agent, Philadelphia.

"Florida and Atlanta Fast Mail" by the Seaboard Air Line Railway.

The "Florida and Atlanta Fast Mail," another of the Seaboard Air Line Railway's splendidly equipped trains, leaves New York daily at 12:10 a. m., 3rd Street Station, Pennsylvania Railroad, with Pullman Drawing Room Sleeping Car and Day Coaches to Raleigh, Southern Pines, Columbia, Savannah, Jacksonville, where connections are made for St. Augustine, Tampa and all Florida points. Connections are also made at Hamlet, N. C., with Pullman Drawing Room Sleeping Car to Atlanta, Ga., with connections at Atlanta, for New Orleans and Mexico, and Texas and Pacific Coast Points. This train connects at Washington with train leaving Boston 7:00 p. m. Leaves Philadelphia 3:50 a. m., Baltimore 6:32 a. m., Washington 8:38 a. m., Richmond 12:33 p. m., arriving Savannah 5:57 p. m., Columbia 1:20 p. m., Savannah 2:50 p. m., Jacksonville 7:30 a. m., St. Augustine 11:10 a. m., Tampa 5:30 p. m. Through Pullman Drawing Room Sleeper New York to Jacksonville. Through Vestibule Passenger Coaches and perfect service.

For information call on or write to all Pennsylvania Railroad offices, or Seaboard Air Line Railway representatives at 300 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.; 1206 and 371 Broadway, New York; 30 South Third Street, Philadelphia; 207 East German Street, Baltimore; 1434 New York Ave., Washington, or to R. E. L. Bunch, General Passenger Agent, Portsmouth, Va.

A Frightful Blunder.

Will often cause a horrible burn, sea'd, cut or bruise. Buckle's Arnica Salve will kill the pain and promptly heal it. Cures Fever Sores, Ulcers, Boils, Corns, all Skin Eruptions. Best place cure on earth. Only 35c a box. Cure guaranteed. Sold by Joseph W. Culbert, druggist.

YOU WILL MAKE NO MISTAKE

In making your purchases at FENTON'S STORE. Years of experience enables the proprietor to know just what to buy, how to buy, and how to sell the thousand and more articles kept in stock in a thoroughly equipped general store.

W. P. FENTON, COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

Removal Sale - AT THE - Collegeville Shoe Store! Whereby SHOE BUYERS CAN SAVE MONEY. A REDUCTION OF TEN TO TWENTY CENTS ON THE DOLLAR on every pair of Shoes sold during the month of February, as we take possession of our New Store March 1st and want to save moving stock.

A Few of the Bargains:

Women's Dongola But. or Lace, \$2.00 \$1.35  
" " Tan " 1.50 1.15  
Misses Dongola " 1.25 1.15  
Women's Dongola " 2.00 1.50  
Men's Box Calf Lace hand sewed 3.00 2.70  
Men's Calf Lace " 3.00 2.40  
Men's Black Vici Lace " 2.00 1.75  
Youths' Veal Calf Lace " 1.25 1.10  
Men's Calf Lace, Hand Sewed " 2.50 1.35  
Men's Patent Leather, Sewed " 3.00 2.50

A. W. LOUX.

MID-WINTER BARGAINS

Are Numerous.

Our way of selling Dry Goods is not to let them linger too long.

Go They Must Regardless of Prices.

Just think—a few more pieces of OUTFIT FLANNEL.

A special reduction in FINE DRESS GOODS.

REMAINTS. B. & U. SHEETS at 50 cents. Full size worth more. BOLSTERS at 25c; PILLOW CASES 15 cents.

TRIMMINGS AND NOTIONS at lowest prices.

MORGAN WRIGHT,

Keystone Dry Goods Store,

Main Street, Opposite Public Square, NORRISTOWN, PA.

CLOVER

BEFORE YOU BUY.

GROUND OYSTER SHELLS, 100 POUNDS, 60 CENTS.

ATLAS READY-MIXED PAINT is the best. Send for Color Card.

N. H. Benjamin & Co.

PHENIXVILLE, PA.

COLLEGEVILLE LAUNDRY.

Teams to hire at all hours at reasonable rates. Orders received by phone or carried promptly attended to.

HENRY YOST, SR., 1-3. At Collegeville Station, Perk. R. R.

FOR GUNS

Ammunition and Repairs,

GO TO

GEO. F. CLAMER,

DEALER IN

HARDWARE

AND

HOUSE FURNISHING

GOODS

Electrical and Bicycle Supplies,

Paint, Glass, Putty, Varnish, Oil, Brushes, Etc.

OIL

Heaters

OF THE

BEST

Makes

Can Now Be had at Reasonable Prices.

AGENT FOR AMERICAN FIELD FENG ING, CYPRERS INCUBATORS, BROODERS, ETC.

GROUND OYSTER SHELLS.

Poultry Wire in all sizes, Man's Green Bone Cutters, Enterprise Shell Grinders, Clover Meal, Chick Manure, etc.

General repairing of Sewing Machines, Bicycles, etc. Saws, Scissors and Skates sharpened.

Main Street, Near Depot, COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

Fall & Winter

GOODS

AT

Rock Bottom Prices

Flannelettes, Outing Flannels, Shaker Flannels, Canton Flannels, and Wool Flannels.

Muslins and Sheeting in all widths. Pillow Cases, Tubing. A good Toweling at 4 cents per yard.

Cotton and all wool Bed Blankets in Grey, Whites, Fawns and Red, from cheapest to best.

A full line of Ladies' and Gents' Flat and Floored Lined Underwear.

Men's Pants in Latest Styles Wool and Worsted, \$1.50 to \$3.00.

Cotton Pants, 75c. to \$1.00.

Hats and Caps, a new lot, in latest shapes and colors.

See our line of Winter Shoes, Boots, Rubber Boots and Shoes. Try our Waterproof Shoe, extra high top, double sole, or a pair of our Two-buckle Felt Boots, and have dry and warm feet the coldest day.

Worsted Blankets, Stable Blankets and Plush Robes. Over 30 styles of blankets, from 60c. to \$7 per blanket.

Floor Oil Cloths and Linoleums.

Keep your cattle and poultry in good, healthy condition by feeding them Rauh's Stock and Poultry Food, a great egg producer. Bone Mills and Crushed Oyster Shells in 100 lb. bags.

Paints, Oils, Glass, Building Hardware, 2 and 3-ply Roofing and Paint for same.

Our Grocery Department is complete with good, clean, fresh stock, at prices as low as the lowest.

E. G. Brownback,

TRAPPE, PA.

Removal Sale

AT THE -

Collegeville Shoe Store!

Whereby SHOE BUYERS CAN SAVE MONEY. A REDUCTION OF TEN TO TWENTY CENTS ON THE DOLLAR on every pair of Shoes sold during the month of February, as we take possession of our New Store March 1st and want to save moving stock.

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Are Numerous.

Our way of selling Dry Goods is not to let them linger too long.







**One Dose**  
Tells the story. When your head aches, and you feel bilious, constipated, and out of tune, with your stomach sour and no appetite, just buy a package of  
**Hood's Pills**  
And take a dose, from 1 to 4 pills. You will be surprised at how easily they will do their work, cure your headache and biliousness, cleanse the liver and make you feel happy again. 25 cents. Sold by all medicine dealers.

**RAILROADS.**  
**Philadelphia & Reading Railway**  
Engines Burn Hard Coal—No Smoke

IN EFFECT NOVEMBER 25, 1900  
**Trains Leave Collegeville.**  
For PERKINSON JUNCTION, BUDGETON and PHILADELPHIA—Week days—6:00 a. m.; 11:30 a. m.; 5:50 p. m. Sundays—6:30 a. m.; 6:13 p. m.  
For ALLTOWN—Week days—7:14, 10:08 a. m.; 3:17, 6:30 p. m. Sundays—8:30 a. m.; 7:39 p. m.

**Trains For Collegeville.**  
Leave PHILADELPHIA—Week days—6:00, 8:38 a. m.; 1:30, 5:21 p. m. Sundays—7:06 a. m.; 6:21 p. m.  
Leave BUDGETON—Week days—6:45, 9:30 a. m.; 2:10, 5:50 p. m. Sundays—7:45 a. m.; 6:50 p. m.  
Leave PERKINSON JUNCTION—Week days—7:00, 9:51 a. m.; 2:25, 6:20 p. m. Sundays—8:13 a. m.; 7:22 p. m.  
Leave ALLTOWN—Week days—4:25, 6:55, 9:45 a. m.; 4:35 p. m. Sunday—4:35 a. m.; 4:35 p. m.

**ATLANTIC CITY DIVISION.**  
IN EFFECT OCTOBER 15, 1900.  
Leave Philadelphia, Chestnut Street wharf and South Street wharf, for Atlantic City: Week days—Express 9:00 a. m., 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:15 p. m. Accommodation 8:00 a. m., 5:30 p. m. Sundays—Express 9:00, 10:00 a. m. Accommodation 8:00 a. m., 5:30 p. m.  
Leave Atlantic City Depot—Week days—Express 7:35, 9:00, 10:15 a. m., 2:50, 5:30 p. m. Accommodation 8:05 a. m., 4:05 p. m. Sundays—Express 4:30, 7:30 p. m. Accommodation 7:15 a. m., 4:05 p. m.

Parlor cars on express trains.  
For Cape May—Week days—9:15 a. m., 4:15 p. m. Sundays—9:15 p. m.  
For Ocean City—Week days—9:15 a. m., 4:15 p. m. Sundays—9:15 a. m.  
For Sea Isle City—Week days—9:15 a. m., 5:00 p. m.  
New York and Atlantic City Express, leaves New York (Liberty Street) 3:40 p. m. and Atlantic City, 8:30 a. m. Detailed time tables at ticket offices.  
W. G. BESLER, EDSON J. WEEKS, Gen'l Superintendent. Gen'l Pass. Agent.  
R. F. REAVER, Asst. Gen. Pass'r Agt.  
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Will meet trains at all Stations. Orders received by telephone or telegraph. 9-8

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Teams to hire at all hours at reasonable rates. Orders received by phone or telegraph promptly attended to.  
HENRY YOST, JR., 1-3. At Collegeville Station, Perik. R. R.

**PIANO MOVING AN ART.**

**Skill as Well as Strength Needed to Get One Up or Down Stairs.**  
"Piano moving" said a dealer in pianos, "is a business by itself. There are truckmen who devote themselves to this work and some whose business has descended to them from their fathers. Some piano manufacturers and dealers maintain their own trucking and piano moving facilities, but with the increased amount of piano moving the work has come to be more of a trade now than ever. What with the multiplication of flatnesses and the frequent necessity of carrying pianos up two, three or four flights of stairs, it is work that calls nowadays more than ever for the exercise of skill as well as strength."

It is a support to the pianist to realize this, and nowadays most folks when they want a piano moved employ a piano mover. But occasionally somebody has a piano to move and to save a dollar or two gets an expressman or a truckman who is not a piano specialist to move his piano, and the expressman or truckman very likely takes this job because he wants the money, and he thinks he's up to anything there is in his line and that he can handle a piano when they come his way. He goes through with it, very likely, all right, but sometimes a piano gets away from him, and when it does it makes dusty work.

"I know of a case in which a piano got away like that from an expressman who had undertaken to carry it up to a fourth floor flat. He was a good expressman, all right, you know. He could handle anything in his way just as well as anybody could, but piano moving was really not in his line. A piano is a tremendously heavy thing, but I don't suppose anybody except those that have tried it know how hard a piano does sag back when it's being carried up a flight of stairs. The regular piano mover is more than strong. He's an expert in this work too. A piano moving team hangs on to a piano with strength and constant watchfulness, but with constant readiness, and they work together with a mutual helpfulness that makes them practically invulnerable, and when a bunch of men not skilled in this way undertake to carry a piano up stairs they undertake a big risk."

"Well, the expressman and his men got that piano up the first flight of stairs all right and pretty nearly up to the top of the second, and then something happened, somebody's foot slipped or something, nobody knew just what, and it didn't make any difference with the result anyway, and the piano got loose. I never knew what it did to the stairs or the house. I never went there to see, but it broke one arm and one leg of the expressman who was running the job and who was one of the men under the piano's heavy end. It was only by the mercy of Providence that he wasn't ground and smashed into pulp, along with the two men with him at that end. They, in some miraculous way, escaped altogether."

"They took the wounded man to the hospital, and there he staid for weeks. They brought the piano here to see what we could do in the way of repairing it. The back frame was broken, the case was split, and the whole piano was a wreck. It would have cost \$200 to put it in order, and then you wouldn't have been sure of restoring it to its original condition. They took the piano away again, and how they settled it I all I never knew."

"The fact is that under present conditions piano moving calls more than ever for the exercise not only of strength, but of special skill, and I should not for a moment hesitate to say that if one had a piano to move, especially out of or into any difficult place, the wisest thing he could do would be to employ a piano mover."—New York Sun.

**Lawyer's Opinion of the Court.**  
The lawyer's inalienable and inestimable privilege of "cursing the court" when the decision has gone against him is marred, as most lawyers realize, by the fact that the "cursing" must be done in private. This animadversion, however, sometimes takes the form of communication of the lawyer's opinion to the publisher of the law reports. Parts of some of these communications have been printed recently by a law publishing firm.

One lawyer wrote, "The case is a legal curiosity and seems to have been decided by blind force."

Another, beaten in a highway case, wrote of the court, "They do not know a highway even when they stumble over it."

Another requests the publisher to chastise the court, stating that "it will be of great benefit to the profession that this case be thoroughly aired and the fallacy and danger of it in its far-reaching results exposed."

Another "very prominent lawyer" wrote, "The opinion of our court is a schoolboy blunder, deserving of nothing but scathing rebuke, and a review of it should run in that line." Most selective of all the suggestions was the statement, "I should be very willing to pay for such a criticism of the decision as hereinabove indicated by me."

"This," comments the publisher, "recalls the Quaker chasing his hat in the wind and who hired an urchin to curse it."—New York Sun.

**A Gilbert Criticism.**  
One night at the Garrick club a number of the members were discussing the merits of a new Hamlet who had appeared that evening. W. S. Gilbert had taken no part in the arguments for or against.

"Well, Gilbert, what do you think of his Hamlet?"  
"Oh," responded the witty witlist, "I think it was funny without being vulgar."

**Military Pompousity.**  
Quinn—Such pompousity in the army is disgraceful.  
De Fonte—Pompousity?  
Quinn—Yes. Since Finn has been promoted to corps major, he has been writing letters marked "private" for fear people may think that that is still his rank.—Chicago News.

**Odors and Deafness.**  
"Here," said the observant boarder, who had a newspaper in his hand, "is a writer who asserts that odors can cause deafness."  
"Well," added the cross-eyed boarder, "musk is pretty loud."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

**The Happy Ass.**  
The chief beauty of the following poem is that it is both rhyme and blank verse—rhyme according to the spelling and blank verse according to the pronunciation:  
Through twilight's gold I heard the wild ass bray  
While he, with his long neck, reared up and  
While he, well knowing that for he should  
Cavort in glee, kicked up the mossy mound,  
And with the merry of his hooves  
Which set on edge two polka dotted calves  
Until they, too, sped wide their safety  
And fled like me, and I flew like the wolf  
Or even the hill in the game of golf.  
—R. K. Mumfrit in Smart Set.

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It may be a little early to talk about Carpets. But did you know that our NEW SPRING STOCK is arriving daily, showing some very startling innovations in patterns and figure work. Parlor Carpets certainly show new century taste in pretty designs. If the future advances in all things as in carpets the world will be a wonderland in two decades. Obtain a forecast of the future by calling at our carpet department.

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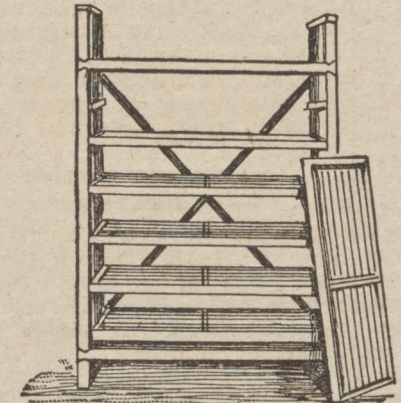
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All Kinds of Carriages and Business Wagons.  
Repairing of all kinds will receive prompt and careful attention.

**FARM & GARDEN**

**EXTRA EARLY POTATOES.**  
**Methods of Securing Them—Sprouting in Trays, Seed End Up.**  
One of the most important factors having an influence on the profitability of market garden crops is that of earliness. A difference of two or three days or a week in placing a crop on the market often makes the difference between profit and loss, and the prices obtained for extra early crops have stimulated cultural experiments with every kind of fruit and vegetable. At the Kansas station seed tubers of four different varieties of medium sized potatoes were placed in shallow boxes, with the seed ends up, in February. (The seed ends are those which are pointed at the eyes.) They were packed in sand, leaving the upper fourth of the tubers exposed, and the boxes



TRAYS AND BACK FOR SPROUTING. were placed in a room with rather subdued light, having a temperature of 50 degrees to 60 degrees F. Vigorous sprouts soon pushed from the exposed eyes. The whole potatoes were planted in furrows in March in the same position they occupied in the boxes. The same varieties of potatoes taken from a storage cellar were planted in parallel rows. The sand sprouted potatoes took the lead from the start in vigor and strength of top and produced potatoes the last of June, a week earlier than the storage cellar potatoes. At the final digging they showed better potatoes and gave a 10 per cent larger total yield.

In another experiment part of the potatoes was treated the same as in the first test except that the sand was kept moistened, and the other part was placed in open boxes and kept in a light room having a temperature of 50 degrees F. The tubers placed in sand developed strong sprouts, and nearly all rooted. When planted in the field, they outstripped both the tubers sprouted in open boxes and the storage cellar tubers in vigor of growth. The tubers started in the open boxes gave earlier yields than were obtained from the storage cellar tubers, but not as early as the tubers sprouted in moist sand. The tubers sprouted in moist sand produced table potatoes from seven to ten days earlier than the storage cellar seed.

At the Rhode Island station medium sized whole potatoes sprouted on racks in a fairly warm and light room gave a 27 per cent better yield at the first digging than potatoes kept in a cold cellar until planting time, and this was increased to 40 per cent at the final digging. The percentage of large tubers was also greater at each digging with the sprouted tubers.

At the Rhode Island station the rack used held nine trays. Each tray was 3 1/2 feet long and 1 1/2 feet wide and would hold about one bushel of potatoes when spread out in a single layer for sprouting. The bottoms of the trays were made of pieces of lath placed about one inch apart. Nine trays were placed in a rack over each other, leaving about nine inches of space between each tray. This method of arrangement has the advantage of securing a very uniform distribution of light and air for all the trays. It greatly facilitates the handling of the potatoes and lessens the danger of breaking off the sprouts when transferring to the field for planting.

Another method of securing early potatoes in Rhode Island on a commercial scale is that of sprouting tubers in a cold frame and planting out as soon as danger of frost is passed. The tubers are cut into pieces not smaller than an English walnut, after rejecting the two or three eyes nearest the stem which have been planted in the late. The eyes are placed side by side in the bed, skin side upward, and covered about four inches deep with fine, rich earth. Their growth can be controlled by proper regulation of the cold frame sash. At planting time the tubers, which should be just breaking the surface of the soil, are carefully lifted with manure forks, separated by hand and placed in well fertilized rows and entirely covered with soil, or, if

TRAY PARTIALLY FILLED WITH POTATOES. danger of frost is past, they are placed with the apex of the sprout just at the surface of the soil. About 216 square feet of cold frame is required to sprout sufficient potatoes to plant an acre in 30 to 32 inch rows, 12 inches apart.

The position of the boxes is changed from time to time, so that the sprouts will be of equal length and strength at the planting season. A typical sprout averages about 1 1/2 inches in length. Medium sized tubers selected from the best of the crop and allowed to lie in the field in the fall until they become greenish are used.—C. B. Smith, Experiment Station Work.

**Frost Protection.**  
Damp straw, old wood, prunings, manure, etc., when burned briskly furnish an effective smoke, and if the material while burning is doused with water the result is a dense steamy smoke which, while trying to human lungs, serves as a screen to prevent loss of heat by radiation and as a barrier between the chilled fruit and a sudden application of heat at the time of sunrise. Wet smoking has been tried in many ways, with varying results, in California. Here, as in all other methods of protection, much will depend upon a careful study of the local conditions. Many a farmer traverses so that some neighbor gets the benefit of his work while his own fruit remains unprotected. In some orchards sacks of old straw soaked with oil are so distributed as to be available for quick lighting.—A. G. M. Adie.

**Wood Lots on Farms.**  
The importance of establishing wood lots or shelter belts on farms that lack them is no less obvious than the necessity of raising the staple crops. The provident farmer cannot really afford to buy firewood, fence posts or building timber any more than he can afford to buy corn and wheat. A part if not all of the wood material used on the farm can and should be grown there. The profit on this timber growth rightly belongs to the farmer, and it is therefore one which economic agriculture cannot neglect.

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